

I will take this opportunity of relating what I know respecting the death of two men who were both deeply and deservedly regretted — Duroc and Poniatowski.¹ Napoleon lamented Duroc chiefly because he was very useful to him. He, however, wished to make a parade of sensibility, and after having made up a tragical scene of Duroc's death, he ordered a picture to be painted, to transmit the recollection of the event to posterity; with this view a suitable story was drawn up for a bulletin. This bulletin contained a high-flown account of the loss the Emperor had sustained; and the following set phrases were put into the mouth of the dying General: "My life has been devoted to your service, and I regret its loss because it might yet be useful to you. Yes, Sire, we shall one day meet again, but it will be thirty years

to escape in all directions: such were the prominent subjects of exultation. Bonaparte was fortunate enough to escape by rapid flight two hours before the entry into Leipsic of the Allied forces.

During the action twenty-two guns of Saxon Artillery, with two West-phalian regiments of hussars, and two battalions of Saxons, joined ^{UH} from the enemy: the former were instantly led again into the field, our artillery and ammunition not being all brought forward.

The losses sustained in the last four days' combats could not with precision be stated; but they were averaged, on the part of the enemy, at 15,000 prisoners, without reckoning 23,000 sick and wounded found in the hospitals at Leipsic, 250 pieces of cannon, and 900 tumbrels. Prince Poniatowski, Generals Vial, Eochambeau, Dumoxistier, Compans, and Latour-Maubourg, were killed, and Ney, Mannont, and Souham wounded. Fifteen generals were made prisoners. The loss of the Allies was equally serious. The Prussian corps of d'Yorl lost 5000 men; the Austrians enumerated no less than sixty officers of distinction killed in this sanguinary contest (Marquis of Londonderry's *Narrative of the War in Germany and France*).

¹Duroc, as has already been noted, was one of the earliest *aides de camp* and companions of Napoleon, and had accompanied him to Egypt, and indeed everywhere. He had been created Due de Frioul and Grand Marechal du Palais. *Mctrmant* (tome v, p. 109) says that a few moments before being hit Duroc showed a sort of despondency and disheartenuijnt, and said to him, "My friend, the Emperor is insatiable for battles. We shall all fall, it is our destiny." The scene between Napoleon and him on his deathbed has been told differently. See *Marmont*, tome v. p. 110: /IVfymr, tome vi. p. 115; and *Thiers*, tome xv. p. 584; and even *Ooif/net*, p. 352. Whatever may have been said to the contrary, there must lieaveheon some strong affection between them. See Napoleon's letter to Madame de Montesquiou, when, perhaps with a remembrance of a famous Roman epitaph, he said, "Tho death of the Due de Frioul has pained me! It is the only time in twenty years that he has not divined what would please me" *JR mitxat*, tome ii. p. 245 note). See also Dumas, a fair representative of the général opinion of the army, not of the tittle-tattle of the Court. "The glorious death of thts Grand Marechal Duroc took from Napoleon his most trusty friend, whom ho much liked; the man whose loyalty, noble independence, and enlightened counsels were so useful to him" (*Dumas*, tome in. p. 500). His Duchy was giv%on to Ins daughter.